

YOUNG MCKINLEY TO GET PENSION

In Time of Stress Would Not Reveal His Identity and Spare Himself.

ENLISTED IN RANKS; WAS SENT TO PRISON

Striking Chapter in the Life of Nephew of Late President. Fulton Now Sole Representative of Oregon in Congress—All Others Indicted.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24.—In this correspondence yesterday I related several current incidents illustrating that the American citizen is moved by sentimental considerations very frequently, almost as frequently as by stern business motives. Senator Dubois, of Idaho, relates an instance which, while illustrating splendid American independence and great personal courage, may eventually show that the Congress is ever ready to yield to sentimental instincts.

Senator Dubois has got through the Senate a bill pensioning Russell McKinley, a nephew of President McKinley, at the rate of \$100 a month. McKinley was a soldier in the Spanish war, serving in an Idaho regiment. His father is a prominent citizen of Boise City. Young McKinley enlisted under an assumed name, disliking the notoriety which his enlistment would cause him if it became known that his uncle was the President and commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States. After the war, McKinley was stationed at Mantanzas, Cuba. Young McKinley and three companions, wishing to see Havana, obtained permission to visit that city. They stayed three days longer than they were permitted by their commanding officer, and when they returned to camp they were put under arrest. They were charged with desertion, and they were found guilty, sentenced to dishonorable discharge, and six months at hard labor. It was brought out at the trial that the young fellows had not dissipated while in Havana.

Went to Prison.
Young McKinley never whispered. Had he cared to make his identity known he could have been set free at once, but he went to prison, and began his term. A month or two after beginning to serve his sentence, the convicts were engaged in blasting rock. There was a premature explosion of one of the charges, and as a result McKinley was terribly injured about the face, and the right eye was totally destroyed. He was in the prison hospital until the end of his term, and then he went back to Boise.

Senator Dubois had no difficulty in getting his bill through the Senate when the story became known. He hopes to get it through the House at this session. He does not pretend that the services of Private McKinley entitle him to a pension, but he does contend that a young man who, at the time when the weakest of pulls were being exerted to the breaking point to obtain a commission, deliberately accepted of a life of suffering in the ranks, and then would not divulge his name and reveal his identity in order to escape the sentence of a court-martial for an offense only technical in nature, should receive some recognition at the hands of the republic. This senator claims that he would not have granted the pension to the man who is to receive it as a nephew of President McKinley. He wants him pensioned because he showed the finest qualities which can be displayed by a soldier, and perhaps the qualities seem most rarely.

The Sole Representative.
It is probably true that never before in the history of America has it fallen to the lot of a senator to be the sole representative of a State in Congress. That is the condition in which Senator Fulton, of Oregon, finds himself now, and he is seen almost as frequently at the House end of the Capitol as on the Senate side. His colleague, Senator Mitchell, is under indictment for complicity in land frauds in Oregon.

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There is something pathetic in the case of Senator Mitchell. He is a Pennsylvanian, which is not the sole reason for sympathy, nor is it the sole reason for the assumption of guilt. He entered the Senate in 1872, and served until 1879, but missed a term, and was re-elected in 1881, and served until 1891. The Oregon Legislature became tied up in the latter year, twenty-eight members refusing to take the oath of office. Senator Mitchell was the only one who did so, and he was elected. In 1901 he was elected again. He is seventy years of age, and shows his years more plainly than any of his colleagues, who are nearly all old or who are older. He long while beard and hair, his bent form, the haggard features, his eyes, his gray hair, all tell of his age. He has abstained from presenting himself in the Senate chamber since the indictment was returned against him, and has been there only on the day he appeared for the purpose of reading his statement of denial of guilt. That was one of the most painful scenes the Senate has witnessed in the years of its history, and will not be forgotten by senators and spectators in the galleries. The old man broke down several times as he declared his innocence, and frequently had to pause and wipe the blinding tears from his eyes. When he concluded his statement, the senators went to him to shake his hand, not as one of them said, for the purpose of indicating that their minds were made up on a question they had not examined his guilt or innocence, but because he was an old man, whose form was shaken by age and sorrow. But he saw several things tending to show the guilt of Senator Mitchell have developed, and his case is not as strong as it was when he appeared in the Senate for the last time.

POINTER ON THE WEATHER

